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TALBOT D'ALEMBERTE

CLAUDE PEPPER*

IN A WAY, Sandy D'Alemberte and I arrived in Miami together in 1962 to begin our new careers. After serving fourteen years in the United States Senate from 1936 to 1951, I ran for, and won election to the United States House of Representatives from the South Florida area and have lived and served there ever since. Sandy, after having graduated with honors from the University of Florida Law School, began his long-time association with the prestigious law firm of Steel Hector & Davis. After Sandy's arrival that year, Miami, and the state of Florida, have never been the same.

Throughout his educational years, Sandy had always been involved in activities which challenged both the mind and the spirit and evidenced a commitment to the public welfare. At the University of the South, he was Chairman of the Debate Council, and perhaps as a precursor to his noted work in the area of first amendment law, was on the editorial staff of his college newspaper. In law school, it was more of the same. A member of the Order of the Coif, he was President of the Student Bar Association, a winner of numerous Moot Court competitions, an Associate Editor of the law review, and finally, upon graduation, the winner of a Rotary Fellowship which entitled him to study at the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science, at the University of London, England.

Perhaps because of this, Sandy was not content in merely becoming the outstanding attorney that he is today. In a growing Miami community, he chose to pursue what has motivated me and others, the service of the public as an elected official. Sandy ran, and was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1966. I don't recall Sandy's campaign that year, but it was not long before he caught my eye as someone who I knew would have as long and as brilliant a career as he wanted. Soon I began reading about his plans and ideas. It was not long before he had drafted and fought through to passage a constitutional amendment restructuring the Florida judicial system. At the same time he was sponsoring and shepherding legislation for the good of the State of Florida, he was also working for the individual needs of his community in Miami, where his constituents were

* Member, United States House of Representatives, 1951-present.

proud of their representative. Sandy was one of the most influential and respected legislators in South Florida and a true community leader. Sandy was always one of the people to whom others in need turned for help on an issue. Whether it was in Tallahassee or in Miami, if Sandy gave you his commitment that he would be on your side on an issue, you knew you had an able ally who would not quit until the battle was over. In victory, he was humble, and in the rare instance of defeat, he was quick to console and to promise a renewal of the effort. On many occasions I had the pleasure and opportunity to work with Sandy during his legislative years. He was the ultimate elected official: dedicated to the common good, dedicated to service, honest and upstanding, full of undying zeal for the beneficent causes which he advanced.

Upon his leaving the Legislature in 1972, he was not content with returning to the successful law practice of which he had become a partner only three years after having joined the firm. Sandy continued to build a reputation for public service in an unelected capacity. He remained involved in public causes and was often called upon to serve on boards and commissions which were charged with assessing problem areas and recommending courses of action to remedy them. His most recent position was serving as the Chairman of the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission.

As a practitioner, I believe Sandy will always be remembered for the work he did as a protector of the first amendment. He ably represented several major newspaper publishers, including the Knight-Ridder chain which publishes *The Miami Herald*. Additionally, Sandy was chiefly responsible for leading the effort which resulted in Florida's landmark cameras in the courtroom rule.

Through scholarly publications, of which he is the author of many, and his involvement in American Bar Association issues, Sandy's reputation expanded beyond the state of Florida. A member of numerous American Bar Association committees, councils, and commissions, and a past President of the American Judicature Society, Sandy has served a distinguished career in the legal arena.

Lastly, I will mention the position which he leaves now, and the purpose for which this special edition of the *Florida State University Law Review* is dedicated.

I have always been fond of the Florida State University. As a graduate of the University of Alabama and Harvard College of Law, I had never attended the Florida State University. However, my late wife did attend Florida State, and we watched the university grow during the time I served in the United States Senate and we resided in Tallahassee. My brother and sister attended Florida State and a num-

ber of their children and in one instance, their children's children did so as well. It was because of a resulting affinity that through our mutual assent, there was established a Mildred and Claude Pepper Library housed in the renovated Dodd Hall on the Florida State campus. Additionally, my friends established an Eminent Scholar's Chair in Gerontology in honor of myself and my late wife. So, it was with pride and satisfaction that I have watched Sandy lead the Florida State University College of Law since 1984. Sandy has served in the excellent tradition of the individuals who have each shaped the College of Law in their own way since its inception. From Deans Ladd, Morse, and Slagle, the Florida State University College of Law has been evolving into one of the preeminent law schools in the South. Under Sandy's leadership, the emphasis has shifted nationwide. Sandy has brought to the College the same vision and dedication which has enabled him to excel in all of the areas in which he has endeavored. His selfless commitment has touched his students in a way which tells them that the law should be less of a career than a calling, a dedication to the goals and values which make the law the point of last resort for the many who have the least.

Sandy has often chosen to leave the administrative offices to teach, where he has had the opportunity to deal with the subjects that have always meant so much to him; constitutional law, trial practice, and first amendment law. No doubt, he enjoys the encounters as much as his fortunate students.

It is hard to say what the loss of Sandy D'Alemberte will mean to the Florida State University College of Law. Sandy goes on to higher places where he will no doubt continue to earn esteem for the College of Law. I understand Sandy will continue to be associated with the School. I hope he does.

Sandy is an educator's educator, a litigator's litigator, and a gentleman unsurpassed. I am proud to be his friend.

